

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 25, 2004. Claims 1 to 3 and 5 are in the application, of which Claim 1 remains the sole independent claim. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Turning first to a formal matter involving the drawings, it is respectfully requested for the Examiner to indicate that the originally-filed drawings have been "accepted".

Turning to the merits of the Office Action, Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,739,940 (Kondo), and Claims 2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kondo in view of U.S. Patent 5,371,526 (Appel). In response, independent Claim 1 has been amended so as to specify that the longer optical path length of the second laser beam is obtained through adjusting means, which is somewhat similar to the subject matter of dependent Claim 4, and dependent Claim 4 has correspondingly been cancelled. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested, as detailed more fully below.

The invention concerns a laser exposing apparatus having first and second laser sources emitting respective first and second laser beams, with the second laser source having a wavelength shorter than that of the first laser beam. In such an apparatus, if the first laser beam whose wavelength is longer is set to the optical path having a longer length, and the second laser beam whose wavelength is shorter is set to the optical path

having the shorter length, then imaging magnifications between the respective beams on a photosensitive member become significantly different. Naturally, with imaging magnifications that are significantly different, uneven images are formed.

According to one aspect of the invention, adjusting means are provided for adjustments such that the optical path length of the second laser beam (whose wavelength is shorter) to the photosensitive member becomes longer than that of the first laser beam (whose wavelength is longer). By virtue of the foregoing arrangement, wherein path lengths are adjusted as set out in the claims, it is possible to avoid situations in which the laser beam having the longer wavelength is set to the longer optical length, and as a consequence, imaging magnifications of the plural beams can be maintained more uniformly.

Kondo describes an arrangement in which the optical path length of the beam having the longer wavelength is shorter than the optical path length of the beam having the shorter wavelength. However, as correctly conceded in the Office Action in its rejection of dependent Claim 4, Kondo does not disclose or suggest an adjustment means for adjusting optical path lengths of the first and second laser beam.

Reliance on Appel was placed for the feature of adjusting means, but it is respectfully submitted that such reliance is misplaced. In particular, it is true that lines 16 to 61 of Appel's column 6 describe an arrangement in which parallel glass plates 85 are positioned so as "to keep the optical path length of all four diodes equivalent". However, as amended herein, independent Claim 1 specifies that the adjustment means provides adjustment "such that the optical path length of the second laser beam to the photosensitive

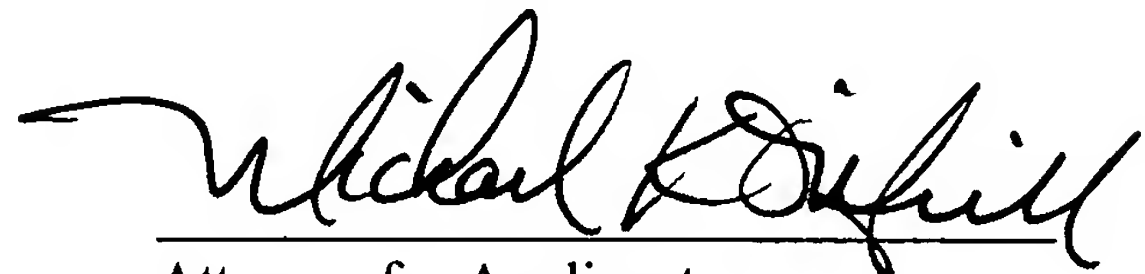
member becomes longer than that of the first laser beam". Such an arrangement is different from that set out in Appel's column 6, and withdrawal of the rejections over Kondo and Appel is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication of allowable subject matter in dependent Claim 5. However, as set out above, it is believed that Claim 1 is also in condition for allowance, such that Claim 5 has not been rewritten in independent form.

No other matters being raised in the application, it is believed that the application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. O'Neill", is written over a horizontal line.

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